

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) A method of operating an endpoint detector for speech recognition, the method comprising:

- inputting speech representing an utterance;
- determining that a value of the speech has dropped below a threshold value;
- computing an intonation of the utterance;
- referencing the intonation of the utterance against an intonation model to determine a first end-of-utterance probability;
- determining a period of time that has elapsed since the value of the speech dropped below the threshold value;
- referencing the period of time against an elapsed time model to determine a second end-of-utterance probability;
- computing an overall end-of-utterance probability as a function of the first and second end-of-utterance probabilities; and
- determining whether an end-of-utterance has occurred based on the overall end-of-utterance probability.

15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14, wherein said computing an intonation of the utterance comprises computing an intonation of the utterance by determining the fundamental frequency of the utterance as a function of time.

16. (Original) A method as recited in claim 15, further comprising:

determining a duration of a final syllable of the utterance; and

referencing the duration of the final syllable against a syllable duration model to determine a third end-of-utterance probability;

wherein said computing an overall end-of-utterance probability comprises computing the overall end-of-utterance probability as a function of the first, second, and third end-of-utterance probabilities.

17. (Original) A method of operating an endpoint detector for speech recognition, the method comprising:

inputting speech representing an utterance;

computing an intonation of the utterance;

referencing the intonation of the utterance against an intonation model to determine a first end-of-utterance probability;

determining a duration of a final syllable of the utterance;

referencing the duration of the final syllable against a syllable duration model to determine a second end-of-utterance probability;

computing an overall end-of-utterance probability as a function of the first and second end-of-utterance probabilities; and

determining whether an end-of-utterance has occurred based on the overall end-of-utterance probability.

18. (Original) A method as recited in claim 17, wherein said computing an intonation of the utterance comprises computing an intonation of the utterance by determining the fundamental frequency of the utterance as a function of time.

19. (Original) A method as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

- determining that a value of the speech has dropped below a threshold value;
- determining a period of time that has elapsed since the value of the speech dropped below the threshold value; and

- referencing the period of time against an elapsed time model to determine a second end-of-utterance probability;

- wherein said computing an overall end-of-utterance probability comprises computing the overall end-of-utterance probability as a function of the first, second, and third end-of-utterance probabilities.

20. (Original) A method of operating an endpoint detector for speech recognition, the method comprising:

- inputting speech representing an utterance, the utterance having a time-varying fundamental frequency;

- determining that a value of the speech has dropped below a threshold value;

- computing an intonation of the utterance by determining the fundamental frequency of the utterance as a function of time;

- referencing the intonation of the utterance against an intonation model to determine a first end-of-utterance probability;

determining a period of time that has elapsed since a value of the speech dropped below the threshold value;

referencing the period of time against an elapsed time model to determine a second end-of-utterance probability;

determining a duration of a final syllable of the utterance;

referencing the duration of the final syllable against a syllable duration model to determine a third end-of-utterance probability;

computing an overall end-of-utterance probability as a function of the first, second, and third end-of-utterance probabilities; and

determining whether an end-of-utterance has occurred by comparing the overall end-of-utterance probability to a threshold probability.

Claims 21-40. (Canceled)

41. (Original) An apparatus for performing endpoint detection comprising:

means for inputting speech representing an utterance, the utterance having a time-varying fundamental frequency;

means for determining that a value of the speech has dropped below a threshold value;

means for computing an intonation of the utterance by determining the fundamental frequency of the utterance as a function of time;

means for referencing the intonation of the utterance against an intonation model to determine a first end-of-utterance probability;

means for determining a period of time that has elapsed since the speech dropped below the threshold value;

means for referencing the period of time against an elapsed time model to determine a second end-of-utterance probability;

means for referencing the duration of the final syllable of the utterance against a syllable duration model to determine a third end-of-utterance probability;

means for computing an overall end-of-utterance probability as a function of the first, second, and third end-of-utterance probabilities; and

means for determining whether an end-of-utterance has occurred by comparing the overall end-of-utterance probability to a threshold probability.